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The most significant passages of the editorial are as follows:

"...To save themselves from destruction, the landlords have not only publicly opened fire, disseminated poison, fomented disorder, and smashed the land reform movement, but also have used innumerable devices to defend their power, usurp local leadership, and plan to re-establish themselves. ...They have caused all political, security, and juridical organs in certain hsien to be infiltrated by their agents who, by posing as revolutionaries, effect counterrevolutionary activity. The Sung Tzu Ling incident shows clearly that the enemy's plot to usurp leadership has advanced one step further, that the leadership authority of the political, security, and juridical organs of En P'ing Hsien has been usurped by the landlords, and that the organs of the People's Democratic Dictatorship have consequently become instruments in the hands of the landlords for effecting dictatorship over the peasants. The knife was in the hand of the enemy and 'backbone members' of the peasantry met with a brutal death. How frightful and how lamentable this incident!

"The enemy has not only attacked, but also has bored -- bored into the top level of the hsien leadership apparatus. Occupying these leadership posts, the enemy 'at court' and the enemy 'in the fields' are now carrying out a pincer movement against the revolutionary people from without and from within. The situation is very critical. If we do not increase our vigilance 100-fold and discover and smash the enemy's plots, then victory in the struggle against feudalism cannot be guaranteed.

"The bloody incident teaches us that the ranks of the cadres must be rectified: villains and class renegades must be purged. Agents of the landlords within the ranks of our cadres -- especially those discovered within the organs of local government -- must not be taken lightly: they are hidden enemies. To push land reform, activate the peasants, and eradicate feudalism we need a great many loyal, diligent cadres who will enter fully into the difficult task of land reform. Then we can gain the victory. But if we have men like Cheng Ting-jō, Feng Han-ying, and Wu Lang -- class renegades who have infiltrated our ranks -- many endeavors will be wrecked. These persons do not want to eradicate feudalism; they want to retain it. The more they carry on wrecking activities within our camp, the more will the peasant movement prove incapable of development. The peasants will not only find it difficult to attain liberation, but will be brutally murdered like Ho Chao-t'ing.

"With regard to rectifying the ranks and purging our quarters: let those comrades who still retain rightist tendencies take care! The villains and class renegades who are plotting with the enemy to smash the revolution must be violently purged and punished in accordance with the severity of their crimes. The Sung Tzu Ling incident reveals that the vile conspiracies of the enemy have proved successful because there are persons in our ranks meeting his needs. We must not rest content and breed such villains. The Sung Tzu Ling incident must not happen again.

"To treat the enemy with mercy is to treat the people criminally. The Sung Tzu Ling incident teaches us that to fail to suppress violently the shameless enemy will prove unfortunate. The peasants have not been sufficiently aroused and the fight against the enemy not sufficiently thorough: in many areas the landlords have not been fully beaten down and their authority is still widespread. The landlords have been beaten not with force but with gentleness. Today, we must once again attack with force and smash the landlords into ruin and destruction. We must mount our political offensive on a broader front and must mercilessly punish, at the outset, the recalcitrant and progress-smashing, illegal landlords, eliminate the reputation

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of the enemy, and nurture the confidence and resolve of the peasants. We must open fire, counterattack, and carry land reform to high tide....

"With regard to these agents of the landlords, these murderers of progressive peasants, and this wicked enemy who even today is actively effecting manifold schemes: they must be viciously beaten down. The more they are hit, the better will it be for us. If Wu Sung in the Shui Hu Ch'uan [a famous character in the tradition of Robin Hood] did not beat the tiger to death, the tiger would have devoured him. Is not the Sung Tzu Ling incident iron proof of this?

"In the last analysis, there are some comrades who look upon the bitter sufferings of the peasants and pretend not to see. Yet they are very much concerned over the landlord class. They turn an empty ear to the peasants' demands to be liberated but promptly respond to the call of the landlords.... From an objective viewpoint, they say, they are led to support the landlords and suppress the peasant movement.... Some cadres act as though it was not the world of the peasants but rather the world of the landlords. Because of this, the peasants look with deep anxiety and are even less venturesome, fearing to rise. This is the real 'confusion.' From this it can be seen that these comrades have lost their orientation, and the consequences of incorrect distinction between ourselves and the enemy have become critical. This has caused the peasant movement to meet with a serious setback. Such mistakes can no longer be tolerated. All comrades must correct their orientation, stand firm on the side of the peasants, and part company with the landlords in theory and in practice. If they do not, then they will become the mouthpieces and shields of the landlord class and their agents. Those who are pulled over to the landlord class must be exposed and displayed as examples."

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